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ORIGINAL LETTERS.

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LETTER III.

Mr. EDWARD LLWYD to the Rev. Dr. MILL, Principal of Edmund Hall, Oxford; dated SWANSEY, Sept. 14, 1696.*

REV. SIR,—I have here presumed to trouble you with a copy of an inscription †, which, amongst several others, I met with this summer in North Wales. The monument, whence I took it, was a stately pillar of very hard stone, of the same kind with our common mill-stones. 'Twas of a cylinder form, above 12 foot in height, seaven in circumference at the basis, where it was thickest, and about six near the top, where smallest. The pedestal is a large stone, five foot square and 15 inches thick; in the midst whereof there's a round hole, wherein the monument was placed. Within a foot of the top 'tis encompassed with a round band or girth, resembling a cord, from whence 'tis square to the top, and each square adorned with a ring, reaching from this band to the top and meeting at the corners. It was erected on a small mount, which seems to have been cast up for that purpose; but in the late civil warres (or sooner) 'twas thrown down and broke in several pieces, whence the inscription is so imperfect.

The reason I trouble you with it is, because I remember amongst Usher's Letters one from Dr. Langbain to him, wherein he writes to this purpose.—“ I have received both the inscriptions, and shall send you my thoughts of that at Vale Crucis; “ but for the other I give it over for desperate.” Now this I send you is the inscription at Vale Crucis; and I doubt not, but the vale received its name from this very stone, tho' 'twas never intended for a crosse. The copy Dr. Langbain received was perhaps taken before the stone was broke, and you may possibly meet with it among his papers and letters, if you know where

* Dr. John Mill was born at Shap, in Westmoreland, in 1645, and became Principal of Edmund Hall, in 1683. He died in 1707. He is celebrated for an Edition of the New Testament, containing about thirty thousand various readings, which, after a labour of thirty years, was published about a fortnight before his death.—ED.

† This inscription, which, from its imperfect state, it would be of very little use to transcribe here, Mr. Llwyd entitles “ An Inscription at Maes “ y Grôes, in the parish of Llhandysilio, in Denbighshire, transcribed “ anno. 1696.”—ED.

they are lodged; or direct me to search for it when I come to Oxford, which will be a month hence at farthest.

The inscription would be legible enough, were it entire. It begins—"Concenn filius Catelli, Cattel filius Brochmali, Broch-mali filius Eliseg, Eliseg filius Guoillauc. Concenn, itaque pro-nepos Eliseg, edificavit hunc lapidem proavo suo Eliseg, &c." 'Tis remarkable, that, adjoining to the monument, there's a township called *Eglwysig*, which name is corrupted doubtless from this *Eliseg*, tho' our greatest critics interpret it *Terra Ecclesiastica*. Thus in Caermardhinshire we find this epitaph,

Servator fidei, patriæque semper amator,
Hic Paulinus jacet cultor pientissimus æqui.

The place, where the stone lies, is called *Pant y polion*, i. e. the Vale of Stakes, corruptly for *Pant Powlin*, Planities Paulini. I find other places denominated from persons buried at or near them: whence I gather *they* were antiently men of great note, who had inscriptions on tombs, be they never so rude and homely. But I trouble you too much with trifles; so shall adde no more but that I am,

Worthy Sir, your most obliged and humble servant,
EDW. LHWYD.

LETTER IV.

*The Same to the Rev. JOHN MORTON, dated OXFORD,
Nov. 22, 1703.*

DEAR SIR,—I received your kind letter, and have altogether the same reason to make an apology for my neglecting to write. I have nothing to plead for it, but that I have been busy about the first tome of my *Archæologia*, which is at last got into the presse, as you'll find by the inclosed. I print about 200 above the number, that have hitherto subscribed. So, if any friend of yours should be curious in antiquities of this kind, it's not too late yet to subscribe; tho', the subject being so foreign, I am sensible few, if any, can be expected.

As to your queries I have little to say. *Tripontium* might have been as well Latin as British: and, if the latter, rather as you say from *Tre'r bont* than *Tair pont*, except the nature of the place favours this latter, by its having a confluence of two or three brooks, which might render three bridges usefull. But it seems the place is in doubt.